



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

NUMBER 64

WINTER 2002

Felicia Warburg Rogan Sporting Art Initiative

The National Sporting Library is pleased to announce that Felicia Warburg Rogan, of Charlottesville, Va., has made a commitment to donate 14 important sporting paintings to the Library. Under the terms of the bequest, the Library has established the Felicia Warburg Rogan Sporting Art Initiative to encourage other collectors to follow her example.

Mrs. Rogan's gift includes paintings by English artists Sir Alfred J. Munnings, John Frederick Herring Jr., Lionel Edwards, Michael Lyne and George Wright.

"Mrs. Rogan's paintings are all wonderful examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century British sporting art," says F. Turner Reuter Jr., a director of the NSL who introduced Mrs. Rogan to the Library. "We are particularly pleased that she wishes



Shrimp with Ponies in Ringland Hills near Norwich,
by Sir Alfred J. Munnings

to use her gift to encourage others to make the NSL known for its fine sporting art as well as for its renowned and comprehensive collection of sporting books."

Mrs. Rogan's gift of her three paintings by Munnings is significant. The first, *Percherons and Stablemen*, is an early oil, 24 x 20 inches. Reuter, who is familiar with Mrs. Rogan's

collection, describes the painting: "This work portrays countrymen and work horses inside a barn. The pigments are dark and the artist wrestles with scarce light and deep shadow in the composition."

The second Munnings, *Shrimp in the Ringland Hills near Norwich*, is an oil of the same dimensions, but oriented horizontally. It shows Shrimp, a gypsy who posed for many of Munnings's paintings, lounging in the grass surrounded by ponies.

Reuter notes that this work, probably painted in the 1920s, is a classic *plein air* effort, a technique Munnings addressed in his autobiography. "This painting has the artist's characteristic color and light in bold, free brush strokes," says Reuter.

Continued on page 2

Sporting Silhouettes: The Paul Mellon Weather Vane Collection at the National Sporting Library

By Lisa Campbell, Publications Director

Sporting Silhouettes: The Paul Mellon Weather Vane Collection at the National Sporting Library will open March 4 in the NSL's Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall.

Paul Mellon (1907-1999) was one of the 20th century's most important international collectors of fine paintings, sculpture and sporting art.

Volumes have been published regarding the scope and content of his art collections. But there has been little recognition of his magnificent collection of weather vanes. This collection, bequeathed to the NSL, contains examples that are among the most highly desirable in existence.

"Mr. Mellon loved the sculptural form of the weather vanes," said Beverly Carter, who was Mellon's administrative assistant and is executor of his estate. "He used most of these pieces in the same way that he used the sculpture from his collection, displaying them on table-

Continued on page 4

The third Munnings is a large oil, 28 x 36 inches, entitled *Rose, Wildbird, Peggy and Stockings*. The painting is illustrated in *The Second Burst* (1951), the second volume of Munnings's autobiography.

Reuter says, "This is a portrait of four horses standing under a demanding sky with Constable clouds in a mown field by the quintessential ancient English oak. His composition harks back to classic images of similar subjects by the likes of Stubbs and Ferneley, yet Munnings juxtaposes finely painted horses with a freely rendered oak, gnarled and broken, a stylistic contrast he often revisited."

Sir Alfred James Munnings (1878-1959) is regarded as one of the best painters of his day. He initially studied art at Norwich Art School, then went to the Académie Julian in Paris. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1898. A year later, he lost the sight in one eye but continued his work undaunted. An avid country sportsman, he hunted with the Norwich Stag Hounds and the Dunston Harriers. Although he painted a wide variety of subjects, he was best known for his portrayal of racehorses and racecourses, foxhunts and gypsies with their horses. He exhibited 298 paintings at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibitions over a 60-year period. He was president of the Royal Academy from 1944-1959.

Mrs. Rogan's painting by Lionel Edwards (1778-1966), *The Quorn at Billesdon*, is a large horizontal oil, 28 x 36 inches. It is illustrated in the entry on Edwards in Sally Mitchell's book, *The Dictionary of Sporting Artists* (1985), the standard reference on British sporting art.

"*The Quorn at Billesdon* captures the English countryside on a fox-hunting day in open shire country," says Reuter. "The huntsman gallops near the hounds at full cry quarter-

ing to the viewer, the whips and master close at hand, and the field desperate to stay in touch with the leaders."

Edwards studied art with Sir Arthur Stockdale Cope (1857-1940), at Heatherly School in London and with W. Frank Calderon (1865-1943) at his school in Kensington. A good horseman who loved foxhunting, Edwards was invited to hunt with nearly every pack in England. He received commissions to paint the



Felicia Warburg Rogan and friends.

hunts at the beginning of the meets and out on the land. The landscapes, skies, and horses in his paintings are colorful and accurate.

Mrs. Rogan's gift of two smaller vignettes by John Frederick Herring Jr. (1820-1907) are a rare, matched pair comprising two sets of eight vignettes *in tondo*, one set of foxhunting subjects and one set of farmyard scenes. These 16 compositions, Reuter notes, are "little jewels, which show the artist's mastery of paintings in miniature."

Like his father, noted sporting artist John Frederick Herring Sr. (1795-1865), Herring Jr. painted many individual canvases of English life and field sports. He achieved acclaim for painting scenes ranging from quiet farmyards to lively foxhunts and horse races.

George Wright (1860-1942), well known for his paintings of horses,

foxhunting and polo, is represented in Mrs. Rogan's gift by six oil paintings. Reuter describes the paintings as a particularly interesting group. "Five of the six oils are painted *en grasailles* executed in shades of gray. The sixth, entitled *A Treed Fox*, is a duplicate of one of the *en grisailles* executed in color," says Reuter.

A foxhunter himself, Wright hunted with the Surrey and Old Burstow. Early in his career, he worked with his brother, Gilbert Scott Wright (1880-1958), illustrating calendars and catalogs. Beginning in 1925, he was under commission to Ackermann's, the renowned London publisher and art dealer, with exhibitions there and at Grand Central Galleries.

Two watercolors by Michael Lyne (1912-1989) of the Middleburg Hunt round out the Rogan bequest. The paintings, commissioned by Mrs. Rogan's uncle, the late Frederick M.M. Warburg, date from the late 1940s and 1950s. The scenes illustrate the Middleburg Hunt near the kennels and the fields of Snake Hill which Warburg owned at the time.

Lyne, the son of a minister, attended Rossall and studied briefly at Cheltenham Art College, but was otherwise self-taught. Lyne loved art, hounds and hunting and received commissions for numerous foxhunting pictures. His work has been exhibited widely in England and America. He illustrated several books on foxhunting, including his own *Hounds, Horses & Country* (1938), *A Parson's Son* (1974) and *From Litter to Later On* (1973).

NSL Chairman George L. Ohrstrom Jr. expressed the board's appreciation for this extraordinary development for the Library: "Mrs. Rogan's initiative and the generosity of her gift both continues and broadens the mission of the National Sporting Library to preserve the culture of turf and field sports for generations to come."

National Beagle Club Archives

By Suzannah Evans, NSL summer intern

When the National Beagle Club donated its archives to the NSL in November 2000, the collection consisted of 37 gray boxes filled with letters, bank statements, entry blanks and more, dating from the late 1800s until the 1950s.

Mrs. Peyton S. Cochran Jr., a director of the NBC, led the effort to transfer the archives from Institute Farm, Aldie, Va., to the Library. Before the trans-

fer, the archives were organized in chronological order by John M. Groff, president of the NBC's Loudoun Agricultural and Chemical Institute Foundation and curator of the Wyck, a National Historic Home in Philadelphia.

Through concerted efforts, NSL staffers and volunteers have arranged the NBC archives more precisely, resulting in a readily accessible collection that closely documents the history of the Club.

Long-time NSL volunteer George Hottel has spent months working on the archives. "I sort it out by dates and then write up as brief as possible a summary of what's in there," he said. It may sound simple enough, but the archives contain thousands of documents.

With the first arrangement complete, the archives present a unique primary source that reveals not only the workings of the Club but also a glimpse of American life in the first half of the 20th century.

Most of the documents in the archives deal with day-to-day business of the Club: membership, field trials, specialty shows, judges, and so on. Business was conducted entirely by mail or telegraph. The mere



David B. Sharp (center), master and huntsman of Treveryn Beagles, participates in NBC Field Trials at Institute Farm, Aldie, Va., 1938.

task of keeping the NBC, the parent club of beagle clubs across the country, abreast of the deluge of paperwork was enormous. Since no one had yet invented the form letter, the secretary was obliged to respond individually to inquiries. (Junk mail, however, was already in full swing. The NBC cheerily gave away lists of members to solicitors like Nu-Vito, producers of Nu-Vito Pup Worm and Nu-Vito Grade A Cod Liver Oil.)

A small, dedicated group of men worked diligently to make the Club a success. At the helm was James Appleton, president from 1910 until 1942. He was master of Waldingfield Beagles, then of Ipswich, Mass. "Nobody did much without Appleton's approval," noted Hottel. "If he didn't go for it, they didn't do it."

Richard Gambrill was Secretary of the NBC for most of the archives' span. He was master of Vernon Somerset Beagles of Peapack, N.J. Together with Appleton, Gambrill steered the Club through the Depression and both world wars.

The Depression especially encouraged a kind of compassion—a kind of we're-all-in-this-together attitude—that allowed organizations

to survive. The NBC, as evidenced by the archives, was no exception. While membership dropped steadily as the \$10 yearly dues seemed increasingly steep, Secretary Gambrill wrote the delinquent members with one last plea: "We need every penny to carry on the Club."

When a member replied that he was simply too hard up, the secretary offered to extend

the grace period despite the fact that the NBC did desperately need the money. "If we were going to carry on the Trials this year we would have to cut everything down to bed-rock, as the Club is entirely 'broke,'" Gambrill wrote to a judge before asking him to cut his judging fee in half. The judge agreed, stating, "Our long pleasant associations cause me to desire to help during this depression."

Despite such long-term strong leadership, the NBC was not without its scandals. A 1917 election of officers for the Eastern Beagle Club was fixed. The whistle-blower wrote the NBC with a detailed list of the detriments of the nominees, calling one "a shyster and a grafter." Trophies were donated and lost with regularity. At times, bills went unpaid.

"I have been deputy sheriff for eighteen years, and this has been the hardest account that I ever had to collect," wrote grocer A.T. Elgin in February 1926, after waiting three months to receive payment of a \$152.09 bill. "I itemized your account and took it over to you all before you left and all of you were so intoxicated you did not know anything." And this during Prohibition, too.

Continued on page 10

Paul Mellon Weather Vanes

Continued from page 1

tops or on freestanding pedestals throughout the Brick House."

In 1999, the NSL received ten outstanding examples from Mellon's estate. Displayed throughout the Library since the new building opened, they adorn the foyer, the Founders' room and the reading rooms. One other, a hound chasing a fox, was bequeathed to the NSL with a life estate to his widow, Rachel "Bunny" Mellon who still resides at Rokeby. The jumping horse on the cupola of the Library's roof was given by Mellon prior to his death to celebrate the opening of the new NSL building.

Most of the pieces in the Library's collection were crafted in the 19th century and are full-bodied figures of horses or other farm animals that Mellon acquired over a span of nearly twenty years, from 1973 to 1991.

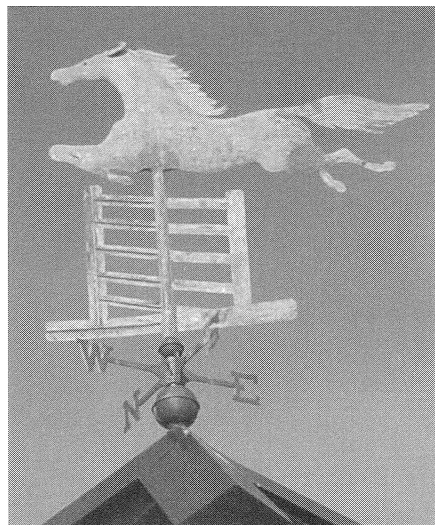
Mellon earned world-acclaim as the breeder of many fine Thoroughbred racehorses. Sea Hero, winner of the 1993 Kentucky Derby; Mill Reef, winner of the Epsom Derby, and the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot; and Fort Marcy, a two-time winner of the Washington, D.C. International, were all products of his breeding program at Rokeby.

The works of art that Mellon collected often reflected his interest in horses and horse sports. Five of the weather vanes at the NSL are figures of horses, two with jockeys up. Those two represent contrasts in both weather vane construction and racing style.

One is the full-bodied figure of A Racehorse in Full Gallop with forelegs and hind fully extended. The jockey leans forward, urging his mount onward with hands holding the reins high. The other racehorse is a trotter with the jockey sitting bolt upright. This is perhaps the oldest

piece in the collection, circa 1850, and constructed from a flat sheet of metal.

A Running Fox reflects Mellon's love of foxhunting. The fur of the small full-bodied figure is sculpted in the copper with incised modeling. In full flight, the fox's fore and hind legs are fully extended. Cushing & White of Waltham, Mass. manufactured it in the third quarter of the 19th century.



Paul Mellon's weather vane on the NSL's cupola. Walta Warren photo.

The largest of the Mellon weather vanes, and one of his favorites, is an enormous, near life-size copper pig. It sat on a table in the Abbey Room, the main library at the Brick House, Mellon's private gallery at Rokeby.

This benevolent looking pig, in his natural full-bodied copper skin, stands an impressive 46 x 24 inches. E.G. Washburne & Co., of New York, manufactured The Pig in the late 19th century.

The Grasshopper sat alongside Mellon's airstrip for a number of years before it was moved to the Brick House. A new layer of gilt was added to the surface once this piece was out of the weather.

Grasshoppers gained popularity in the 18th century when New Englander Shem Drowne, a weather vane craftsman, placed one with green glass eyes on top of Faneuil

Hall in Boston in 1749. Soon after, a copy was made and placed on London's Royal Exchange.

Many ordinary weather vanes were cut from wood or flat metal but most of Mellon's are full bodied. Rick Kirschner, curator at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, explains how the full-bodied vanes were crafted: "The hand-made vanes are more valuable. Relief molds of iron or steel were made, one for each half. Then a sheet of copper was placed over it and pounded into the depression. The two halves were then soldered together. On the ones that haven't been gilded, you can see the solder lines all around them where the two halves were joined. On some farm animals, the legs and tail were cast in lead and soldered on."

Archaeologists credit the Greek astronomer, Andronicus, as the first known builder of weather vanes around 48 BCE. In the 9th century, the Pope decreed that the rooster or cock should symbolize the betrayal of Jesus at the Last Supper. All Catholic churches in Europe were ordered to place "weathercocks" on their spires as a reminder to parishioners of Peter's betrayal and their duty to pray each morning—when the cock crows. Other Christian churches followed suit, topping their steeples with weathercocks. In America, particularly in New England, many 18th- and 19th-century churches placed weathercocks on spires.

In 1960, Mellon built Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, a stately church of the finest stone from the countryside. Atop Trinity stands a magnificent copper weathercock, breast swelled and beak open to crow in full voice.

Paul Mellon's extraordinary collection of weather vanes will be on display from March 4 through August. For more information, visit the NSL at www.nsl.org or call 540-687-6542.

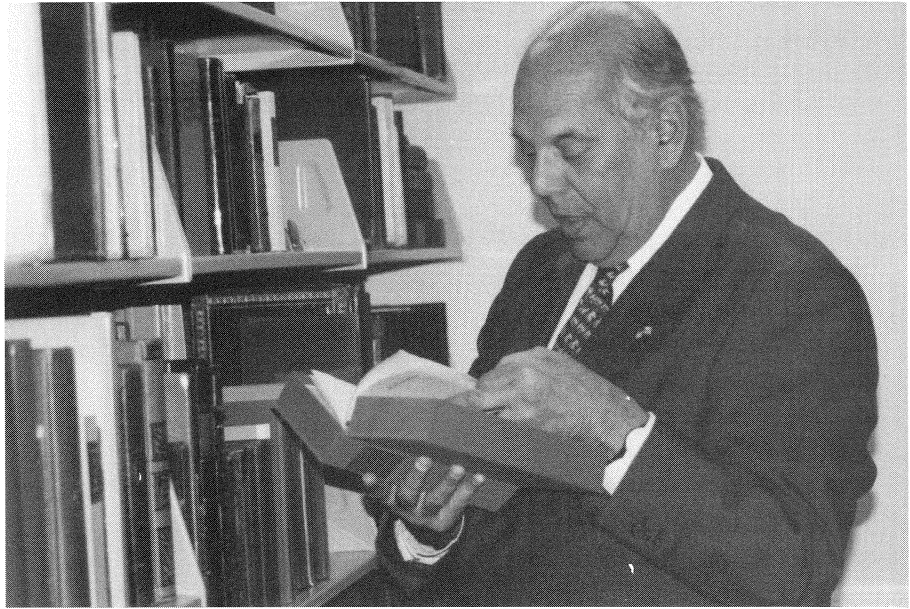
President of Uruguay Visits NSL

Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle Ibanez, in Washington in February for talks with President Bush, took time from his official duties to visit the National Sporting Library.

His hosts were Carlos S. E. Moore, chairman of the Library's Thoroughbred advisory committee, and Rebecca M. Tomlinson.

President Batlle is an avid horseman and Thoroughbred breeder and a long-time reader of *The Blood-Horse* magazine. At his farm, he has 18 Thoroughbred mares. He also stands the sires Plicck, a G2 winner by Night Shift, and El Coliseo, a G1 winner by Fitzcarraldo.

President Batlle immersed himself in the Library's Thoroughbred collection, taking particular interest in books he discovered in the rare book room. And he expressed delight watching live races on the big



Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle Ibanez enjoys reading a book in the rare book room.

screen in the Founders' Room. "If I had a screen like that in my office, I would never get any work done," he declared.

The President was accompanied by Hugo Fernandez-Faingold, Uruguay's ambassador to the United States.

Herbert Haseltine Sculpture

The Thoroughbred Horse, a superb bronze by sculptor Herbert Haseltine, has been donated to the National Sporting Library by Edward H. Tuck.

Tuck, who lives in New York, is a long-time friend of George L. Ohrstrom, Jr., chairman of the National Sporting Library.

This beautiful sculpture adorns the large table in the Founders' Room. The lustrous patina on *The Thoroughbred Horse* brings the animal to life. Underneath the clear protective coat are gold highlights on the mane, tail, hooves and points of the anatomy - just like that



The Thoroughbred Horse, by Herbert Haseltine, 1949.

of a well-bred racehorse. Well proportioned and correct, the bronze stands 11 x 13 inches.

Herbert Haseltine (1877-1962) was born in Italy but came to America at age 16 for his education at Harvard. He later studied art at the Royal Academy in Munich. Haseltine based his studio in New York City and achieved early acclaim for his equestrian and animal sculptures. One of his most remarkable works is a 3,000 lb. statue of the immortal Man 'O War which stands in Lexington, Kentucky.

To view this fine example of Haseltine's highly-regarded works, visit *The Thoroughbred Horse* in the Founders' Room during normal Library hours.

John Cooke Donates Jack Kent Cooke's Thoroughbred Breeding Books

John Cooke of Middleburg has donated his father's exceptional collection of Thoroughbred breeding books to the National Sporting Library.

Among the books of Jack Kent Cooke's library are Federico Tesio's *Breeding the Racehorse*, Franco Varola's *The Tesio Myth*, and Ken McLean's highly regarded *Tesio: Master of Matings and Quest for a Classic Winner: Pedigree Patterns of the Racehorse*.

"This is a magnificent collection of breeding books," says NSL Director Kenneth Y. Tomlinson. "Jack Kent Cooke was a great sportsman. He brought enthusiasm to all of his sporting pursuits—including breeding."

Cooke (1912-1997) may have been best known as the owner of the three-time Super Bowl champions Washington Redskins. Earlier he built the Forum in Los Angeles for his NBA champions, the Lakers.

But he also made his mark in horseracing with an extensive breeding operation at Elmendorf Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. His program produced a number of graded stakes winners. Among the Grade 1 winners that ran under the Cooke colors were Flying Continental, winner of nearly \$2 million in 51 starts; Antespend, winner of over \$1 million in 24 starts; and Colcon, winner of \$626,000 in 24 starts.

Cooke was also a familiar figure on the Virginia steeplechasing cir-

cuit. "He was very interested in his horses, and he liked to win," Virginia trainer Dorothy Smithwick recalls. "His good friend Randy Rouse told him, 'You ought to have jumpers. Then you can go to the races here!'"

Smithwick and her son D.M. "Speedy" Smithwick Jr. trained Cooke's horses over fences. Among the best was the Elmendorf-bred Big Estero who ran from 1989 until 1995. The hard-knocking bay horse won a number of races including the Temple Gwathmey Handicap at Middleburg's Glenwood Race Course.

The breeding books of Jack Kent Cooke are on exhibit in the NSL's main reading room.

Thoughts on Foxhunting

The National Sporting Library's Chairman's Council honored Bath County Hounds Huntsman, Melvin Poe, January 11, with a showing of the documentary *Thoughts on Fox Hunting*, followed by a reception at Whitewood Farm, the home of NSL Chairman and Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom Jr.

In the film, Melvin Poe and the hounds of Orange County Hunt deliver the sounds and excitement of foxhunting at its best. Poe, 81, now hunts George Ohrstrom's Bath County Hounds every fall on Fassifern Farm in historic Bath County, Virginia.

NSL member Tom Davenport of Delaplane, Va., produced the film in 1979. He based the film on the foxhunting philosophy of 18th-century Huntsman Peter Beckford (1740-1811) of England. Beckford wrote the classic bible on the sport, *Thoughts on Fox Hunting*, published in 1791 (of which the Library has two copies). Alexander Mackay-Smith (1903-1998), co-founder of the Library, narrates with readings from Beckford's book.

The video, *Thoughts on Fox Hunting*, is shelved in the Library's film library and may be viewed by appointment by members during Library hours.



Huntsman Melvin Poe leads the hounds of Orange County Hunt.
Douglas Lees photo.

John H. Daniels Gives Rare Yale Books

John H. Daniels, Yale Class of 1943, has donated two rare Yale books to the National Sporting Library.

A History of Yale Athletics 1840-1888 by Richard M. Hurd is a treasure for any fan of Yale University sports. Complete with illustrations and tables of statistics, this fine book contains the records of "every contest with Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania, Columbia, Wesleyan and others in Rowing, Foot Ball, Base Ball, Track Athletics and Tennis." It was published by Yale in 1888.

Yale Melodies: A Collection of the Latest Songs Used by the Yale University Glee Club (1903) was "composed, compiled and edited by Thomas G. Shepard, musical director of the club since 1873." This splendid book contains 104 pages of favorite Yale songs of the day, sung

by the Yale Glee Club.

"These books are quite rare, I didn't even know they existed," says Daniels, an NSL Director and collector of rare sporting books. "*Yale Athletics* is one of the earliest books about varsity sports and perhaps the earliest of the Ivy League books."

Daniels donated his remarkable 5,000 volume sporting-book collection to the NSL in 1999—books on foxhunting, fishing, shooting and other field sports dating from the 1500s to the 1900s. These latest additions will join a special football-shaped Yale treasure, *Football Program of the Harvard-Yale Game, New Haven, Conn., November 23rd, 1912*, also a Daniels gift.

The hardbound *Yale Athletics* is in good condition. For the years 1890 and 1891, handwritten notes were

penned on the results pages by its original owner, Ernest H. Wells. Each section contains a description of the sport and a report for each year. At the end, complete results are listed with scores and player information.

Daniels received *Yale Melodies* as a gift and he was so happy with it, he made copies of it to send to fellow members of the Whiffenpoofs, Yale's choral group. He writes, "I'm planning to go to New Haven in April when the Whiffenpoofs are going to celebrate its 85th reunion with a two-day singing jamboree. I think that our Class of '43 will have a good turnout and we might even try a few songs from *Yale Melodies*."

These two additions to the NSL's collection are on display in the foyer showcase.

Scholars at NSL

By Robert Weber, Librarian

Over the past several months, an increasing number of individuals have taken advantage of the National Sporting Library's unique resources to conduct research on a variety of sporting and equestrian topics.

The NSL possesses the world's foremost sporting research collections with 12,000 books and serials, including an unparalleled rare book collection, and archives containing photographs and one-of-a-kind manuscripts. As awareness of the Library has become more widespread, researchers have increasingly turned to resources in the collections to pursue projects of local, national and international flavor.

S. Bruce Smart, of Upperville and an NSL Chairman's Council member, has been researching a book on the history of the relationship be-

tween humans and horses. He plans to take a broad approach to his study, sketching these relationships through the centuries from ancient civilizations up to the present. Smart has made considerable use of the Library's general collection, consulting books on the psychology of horsemanship and the emotional connection between humans and horses, as well as books on steeplechasing and foxhunting.

A Virginia public broadcasting production that will address the role of the horse in the Commonwealth's history is also underway, utilizing the Library's resources. The film's working title is *Silent Hero of Virginia History: The Horse*. Generously supported by NSL Director Arthur W. Arundel, this project is under the direction of filmmaker George Gilliam who has visited the Library on a

number of occasions to peruse the collections and record images of horses at work.

Peter Winants, NSL director emeritus, recently completed the manuscript for a biography of Melvin Poe, who hunts George Ohrstrom Jr.'s Bath County Hounds (Va.). Winants made extensive use of the Library's photo archives, particularly the Marshall Hawkins Collection which contains dozens of photos of local racing and hunting, social events and celebrities. Winants spent several years exploring the depths of the NSL collections for his book, *Steeplechasing: A Complete History of the Sport in North America* (2000).

James L. Young, NSL resident scholar and master of Orange County Hunt, is working on com-

Continued on page 11



Directors of The National Sporting Library

102 The Plains Road
Post Office Box 1335
Middleburg, Virginia 20118-1335

OFFICERS

George L. Ohrstrom Jr.
Chairman

Jacqueline B. Mars
Vice Chair

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
President

Clarke Ohrstrom
Treasurer

Karen Showalter
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Mimi Abel Smith
Arthur W. Arundel

Donald Calder
James Cummins
John H. Daniels

Edward P. Evans
Diana J. Firestone
Helen K. Groves

Sheila Johnson
Christopher Ohrstrom
F. Turner Reuter Jr.

B. Francis Saul II
Joan Irvine Smith
William C. Steinkraus

John von Stade
Don W. Wilson
Peter Winants

THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER (ISSN 1068-2007)

Number 64, Winter 2002

Published by the
National Sporting Library
Telephone 540-687-6542

<http://www.nsl.org>
Lisa Campbell, *Editor*

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, *Director*

Robert Weber, *Librarian*

Walta Warren,

Assistant Director/Curator

Karen Halver,

Assistant to the Director

Peter Winants, *Director Emeritus*

June Ruhsam Volunteer of the Year

June Ruhsam, of The Plains, Va., was recently honored as the National Sporting Library 2001 Volunteer of the Year.

June was the NSL librarian in the late 1970s; in 1999, she returned to the Library as a volunteer when the new building opened.

The Library staff looks forward to Tuesdays when June comes to volunteer because she is always so cheerful and is a hard worker. She is responsible for managing the NSL's periodical collection. She assisted Peter Winants, director emeritus, cataloging the books in the rare book room and recently helped complete shelf reading of the main collection.

June's father was a U.S. cavalry officer, and she grew up learning to ride with the best at Fort Riley. June has lived in many countries of the world but settled in the Middleburg



June Ruhsam receives certificate from Director Kenneth Y. Tomlinson.

area when her husband, the late Col. Harry Ruhsam, retired from the Army. They raised purebred Angus cattle and Thoroughbred horses. They both enjoyed hunting with Orange County Hunt, following huntsman Melvin Poe.

June was a strong backer of Pony Club. Their daughter Joey and son Jonathan

were both members of Middleburg-Orange County Pony Club. Both Joey and Jonathan rode steeplechase horses and became racehorse trainers. An enthusiastic supporter of steeplechasing, June has reported the results of Virginia racing to the *Washington Times*, *Fauquier-Times Democrat* and *The Chronicle of the Horse*.

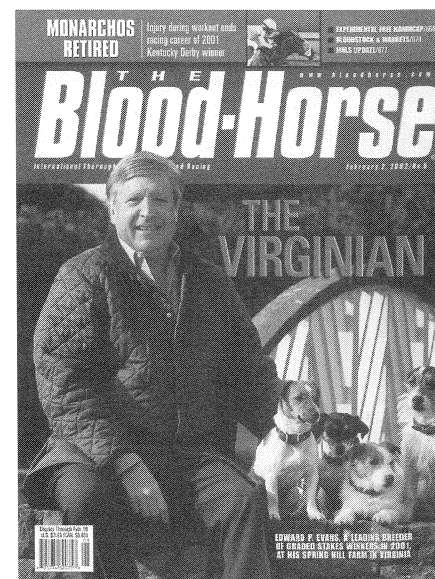
Volunteers like June are important to the daily operation of the Library, assisting the staff with many tasks.

Evans Featured in *The Blood-Horse*

Edward P. Evans, a National Sporting Library director and benefactor, was featured on the cover of the February 2 issue of *The Blood-Horse*.

Evans, who races such stakes winners as Raging Fever (Storm Cat—Pennant Fever by Seattle Slew), Gold Mover (Gold Fever—Intentional Move by Tentam), and Cat's At Home (Tabasco Cat—Homewrecker by Buckaroo), was the third leading owner on the New York Racing Association circuit in 2000 and 2001.

Evan's Spring Hill Farm is located in Casanova, Virginia.



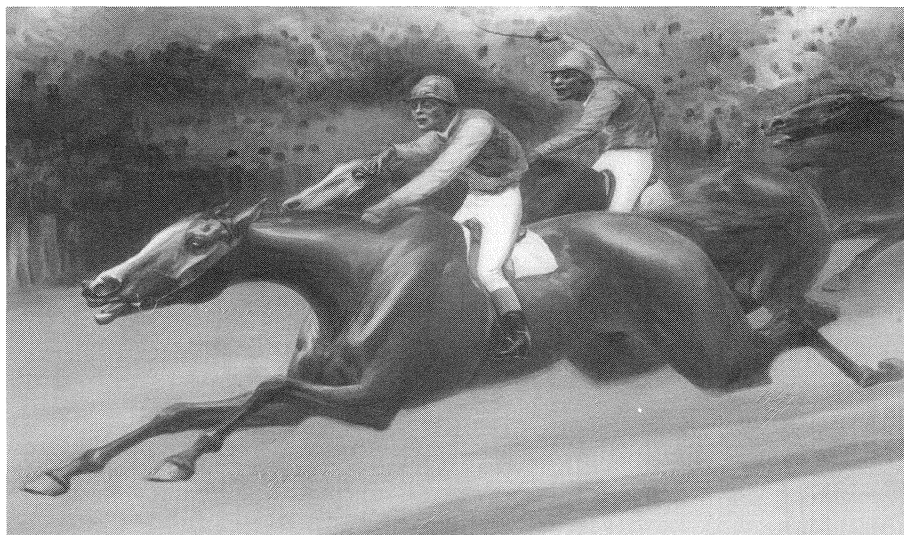
Historic Painting Honors Peter Winants

The Margaret Kendrick Blodgett Foundation, at the request of Margaret H. Whitfield, a member of the NSL Chairman's Council, has donated an important painting by Louis Maurer to honor Peter Winants, director emeritus.

This colorful oil painting portrays the finish of the first running of the Futurity Stakes at the Coney Island Jockey Club, Sheepshead, New York, 1888, in which the Thoroughbred Proctor Knott bested Salvator by a neck. F. Turner Reuter Jr., a director of the Library, located the painting given in recognition of Winants's service to the NSL.

Winants was director of the Library from 1991 to 1999, a period of significant expansion of the Library both in terms of the collection and facilities.

Maurer (1832-1932), a native of Germany, settled in New York in 1851. His pictures of horseracing, both trotting and on the flat, were reproduced by Currier and Ives and frequently appeared in the sporting



Louis Maurer painting of Proctor Knott.

publication, *The Spirit of the Times*. Maurer made several trips to the American West from which he produced landscapes and animal pictures. The Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, has his "Royal Buffalo Hunt." Other museums exhibiting Maurer's work include the University of Minnesota Art Museum in Minneapolis, the Museum of the City of New York

and the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

A reproduction of Proctor Knott's winning effort appears on the dust jacket of *The Great Black Jockeys: The Lives and Times of the Men Who Dominated America's First National Sport* (1999), written by Edward Hotaling and researched at the NSL.

Maurer's painting may be viewed in the Library's foyer.

Joseph A. Allen

Joseph A. Allen, the distinguished British publisher and bookseller, died in November. He was 91.

A long-time NSL member, Mr. Allen regularly sent copies of his books to the Library. The NSL holds 277 books published by Allen.

Mr. Allen was born in Bloomsbury in 1910 and was educated at St. Clement Danes' Grammar School. He was the son of the owner and editor of the London racing paper, *Sporting Luck*. At age 16, his father passed away, leaving him a collection of horse books and a run-down building in Bloomsbury. The building contained a second-hand bookshop, and Mr. Allen proceeded to combine book selling with publishing.

In 1939, he rented the store space at No. 1 Lower Grosvenor Place and opened The Horseman's Bookshop. Situated across from the Royal Mews,

many members of the Royal family shopped there over the years. He established himself as the leading equestrian publisher following WWII. He was the founder of the R.S. Surtees Society and the Independent Publisher's Guild.

The Daily Telegraph writes: "He ran the office on a shoestring, working all hours of the day, paid over royalties if the author happened to ask for them, published books he believed in and saw a market for, and used the occasional bestseller, such as Sylvia Stanier's *The Art of Lunging*, which sold more than 100,000 copies, to subsidise less profitable ventures."

Mr. Allen sold his publishing business to Robert Hale Ltd., in 1999, and the bookshop closed at the end of 2000.

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

One surprising revelation of the archives is the sometimes frosty relationship between the NBC and its parent club, the American Kennel Club. On December 31, 1926, J.E. de Mund, president of the AKC, published an article in the AKC *Gazette* lambasting nearly all its member clubs, but placing the NBC at the top of the list.

"The clubs that apparently have no desire to advance the interest of their respective breeds include the National Beagle Club..." he wrote. His ill humor arose from the fact that the NBC and other clubs had been remiss in sending in monthly breed updates to the *Gazette*, a minor offense at most, but seemingly worthy of a column-length rant.

President Appleton responded swiftly, calling the article "dictatorial" and "discourteous." He continued, "I beg to express the hope that a retraction of these remarks will appear in the next issue of the *Gazette*."

No repentance was forthcoming. "Perhaps the article was too forceful," de Mund admitted, but "this letter is not to be taken in any way as

an apology." He ended the letter with a biting remark about the NBC's efficiency in granting field trial dates to member clubs. "I trust that this will be remedied in the future," he concluded.

The conflicts between the NBC and the AKC were born out of bureaucratic difficulties, however, and were not personal. The NBC approved field trial and specialty show dates for its member clubs before the AKC gave final permission.

The NBC weathered a great deal of controversy each year as it tried to schedule field trial dates. The bulk of the archives is dedicated to correspondence weighing the pros and cons of allowing certain clubs to hold field trials.

The Anderson Beagle Club, of Indiana, had a terrible time convincing the NBC to grant it a field trial at all, but not just for scheduling conflicts. The club was denied as early as 1919, and four years later was still pleading for consideration. In this case, the NBC seemed more concerned about choosing field trials that would best represent beagling as a whole, and the Anderson group apparently didn't meet that standard.

"I was there a year ago and

judged their show," wrote H.W. Prentice. It was "benched in a small room about twenty by fifty, sawdust scattered on the floor, and the dogs on it with poultry exhibition coops over them, fastened to the wall with a chain, and all scratching in unison." The Anderson Beagle Club's request to hold a field trial that year was rejected.

Despite the fact that trifling troubles could and often did explode into major hassles, issues were raised and handled with courtesy and thoroughness.

In addition to being a model of effective administration, perhaps the best aspect of the NBC archives is its role as a reminder of American life before the Internet age. In 1924, Acting Secretary George Post received an inquiry about beagling in Washington. His response was, "I am unable to answer your letter of October 3rd in regard to beagles in the State of Washington, as Washington is very far away."

The NBC archive collection is well underway to becoming an important interactive tool for researchers, whether their interests lie specifically in beagles or in American history as a whole.

2001 Duplicate Book Sale Results Summary

Number of lots sold:	168
Number of bidders:	59
Highest bid for book:	Woodward & Vosburgh, <i>Cherished Portraits of Thoroughbred Horses</i> (1929) - \$2,601
Book with most bids:	Paul Brown, <i>Hi Guy: The Cinderella Horse</i> (1944) - 7
Book sale gross:	\$24,968

NSL Web Site

The NSL's web site at www.nsl.org continues to receive a large number of hits analogous to the circulation of a small magazine.

Early in the year, web site hits averaged 11,000 per month. In October the number jumped to 20,428 at the height of the NSL's fall season of activities and the Duplicate Book Sale. But the number of web visitors remains strong with January registering 17,444 hits.

Check the National Sporting Library's web site for the latest Library news, the monthly Book of the Month feature, newly scheduled Library events, and to browse the NSL's online card catalog and digital collection.

Recent Events at NSL

Latest events at the NSL include:

The October lecture, "Why the Countryside Should Be Open for Foxhunting," drew a large crowd. Speakers included James Scharnberg, master of Skycastle French Hounds, Malcolm Commer, Ph.D., a foxhunter and agricultural economist with University of Maryland, and Randolph Rouse, master of Fairfax Hunt.

In November, Malcolm Cormack, Paul Mellon Curator at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, addressed a packed Founders' Room. His presentation, "Reputation Restored: Paul Mellon, George Stubbs and the Art of the Horse," included slides of Mellon's paintings by British sporting artist George Stubbs (1724-1806).

In the fall, a mini-exhibit of works by artist Paul Brown (1893-1958) was on display in the main reading

room. Brown's granddaughters Judy Brown Malone and Joanne Brown generously loaned their collection of his sketches and scrapbooks.

In January, a large gathering of steeplechase fans enjoyed a new PBS documentary, *The Jumping Game*. The film features many prominent men and women of American steeplechasing such as Jonathan Sheppard, Janet Elliott, Sanna Neilson and Bruce Miller. Peter Winants, NSL director emeritus, was featured as the historian.

In March, *Sporting Silhouettes: The Paul Mellon Weather Vane Collection at the National Sporting Library* opens in the Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall. (See story on page one of this issue.)

A panel discussion on horse behavior is set for Friday, March 29. Guest speakers will include Sue McDonnell, Ph.D., of University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary

Medicine and author of *Understanding Horse Behavior*, and Stephen Budiansky, a former editor of *Nature* magazine and author of *The Nature of Horses: Exploring Equine Evolution, Intelligence and Behavior*.

To keep abreast of new events at the Library, periodically check the NSL web site at www.nsl.org. Notice of events will be mailed to NSL members at the Chairman's Council, Guardian and Sponsor levels.

British Author Robin Page to Return

Robin Page, author of *The Hunting Gene* and a leader of England's Countryside Alliance will lecture at the NSL, 7 p.m., Friday, April 19, on the status of the government's campaign against foxhunting in England.

Scholars at NSL *Continued from page 7*

pleting volumes three and four of J. Blan van Urk's *The Story of American Foxhunting* (c1941). Young works in his office at the Library poring over books in the foxhunting collection. He has consulted volumes from the rare book collection, as well as van Urk's own incomplete manuscript for volume three given to the Library through the generosity of NSL Vice Chair Jacqueline B. Mars. Van Urk published volumes one and two, covering most American hunts through 1941. He passed away in 1998, leaving volume three unfinished.

Young initially set out to prepare the unfinished volume for publication, but soon realized the task was much larger in scope. He has expanded his research to include the 350 hunts that have organized since 1900 without duplicating van Urk's work. Young regards the project as a comprehensive history of 20th-cen-

tury foxhunting in North America.

Mary Fishback, of the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Va., found much at the NSL to contribute to her forthcoming book, *Northern Virginia's Equestrian Heritage*, due out this spring. Fishback is the author of three other pictorial histories of Loudoun County. She wrote this most recent book with an eye toward Loudoun's equestrian history. She, too, used several photos from the Hawkins Collection, as well as from the Harry Worcester Smith papers. In addition, Fishback found useful general historical information in the Library's vertical file and monograph collection.

Dr. Robert Cook, a veterinarian from Chestertown, Md., has developed a bitless bridle. As part of his efforts, he has consulted works in the collection on the history of bridles and horse anatomy. He found quite useful the writings of Bracy Clark, a British veterinarian who wrote on

these subjects in the 19th century.

Another Marylander, Elizabeth Tobey, made substantial use of parts of the NSL's rare book collection. Tobey, a doctoral candidate at University of Maryland, focused her research on horseracing during the Italian Renaissance and the depiction of racing in period art. She made great use of the rare book collection, translating long passages from Pasqual Caracciolo's *La Gloria del Cavallo* (1566), part of the Huth-Lonsdale-Arundel Collection.

NSL member and polo enthusiast, Nigel à Brassard, of New York and London, contacted the Library for assistance in gathering information and photos concerning England-versus-America polo matches. As a result, the Library is acknowledged in his book, *A Glorious Victory, A Glorious Defeat: Buck's Club and the International Polo Matches of 1921* (2001).

The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council:

Mr. and Mrs. William Abel Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Arundel
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Ayers
Mr. and Mrs. William Backer
Thomas M. Beach Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Zohar Ben-Dov
Elizabeth C. Bird
Magalen O. Bryant
Elizabeth Busch Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Calder
Mr. and Mrs. Rodion Cantacuzene
Mr. and Mrs. Finn M. W. Caspersen
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Cheatham III
George M. Chester Jr.
Citigroup Private Bank
Jane Forbes Clark
Mr. and Mrs. W. Carey Crane III
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Cronin
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Daniels
Paul L. Davies, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Duke
Edward P. Evans
P. Jay Fetner
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Firestone
Dielle Fleischmann & Richard N. Viets
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Fout
John H. Fritz
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Graham
Helen K. Groves
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Guarriello

Bill H. Gunn
Virginia B. Gunnell
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Hardaway III
James L. Hatcher Jr.
Ingrid M. Hinckley
Mrs. George A. Horkan Jr.
Hon. Amo Houghton Jr.
Sam Huff
Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel H. Johnson
Sheila C. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lyons
Dr. and Mrs. Edward B. MacMahon
Peter Manigault
Jacqueline Badger Mars
Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Matheson
Mrs. Paul Mellon
Mrs. James P. Mills
Col. and Mrs. Robert W. Newton
Roberta Odell
Barnaby A. Ohrstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Ohrstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Ohrstrom
George F. Ohrstrom
Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom Jr.
Mrs. Ricard R. Ohrstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Q. O'Neill
Lorian Peralta-Ramos
Nicole H. Perry
Frederick H. Prince
Dr. and Mrs. Jerold J. Principato

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rathbun
Dr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter
Mr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robin D. Roberts
David and Catherine Rochester
B. Francis Saul II
Mildred Fletcher Slater
Mr. and Mrs. S. Bruce Smart Jr.
Gordon G. Smith
Joan Irvine Smith
Robert H. Smith
William Steinkraus
Mead Stone
George Strawbridge Jr.
SunTrust
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip S. Thomas
Dr. Mary Finlay Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Laura van Roijen
John von Stade
Virginia S. Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Warren
Margaret R. White
Mr. and Mrs. S. Bonsal White
Mrs. Charles S. Whitehouse
Margaret H. Whitfield
Mrs. James Wiley
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Wolf
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zakroff
John R. Zugschwert

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Weekends by appointment



THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

102 The Plains Road

Post Office Box 1335

Middleburg, Virginia 20118-1335

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 8
MIDDLEBURG VA

Return Service Requested